

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ORM-02 SCA-01 SS-15 SSO-00
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FM AMCONGEN HONG KONG
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3512
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 00935

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: PROPOSED PROCEDURES FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROCESSING
FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT CASES

REF: GENEVA 0374

1. WHILE WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT WILL REJECT THE PROPOSAL TO PERMIT US TO CONDUCT A
LIMITED CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROGRAM FOR REFUGEE BOAT CASES HERE,
I AGREE WITH PARA 4 THAT CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ASSURE THAT
THERE IS NO MISSTEP. HKG'S PARTICULAR CONCERN IS THAT HONG
KONG NOT BE PERCEIVED AS HAVING BECOME A REFUGEE PROCESSING
CENTER. IMPORTANT IN THIS CONNECTION IS THAT OUR APPROACH
EMPHASIZE THE LIMITED NATURE OF WHAT WE ARE ASKING THE HONG
KONG AUTHORITIES TO DO(I.E. ONLY TO ALLOW FINAL PROCESSING
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OF US-BOUND REFUGEES) AND THAT THEY NOT GET THE IMPRES-
SION THEY MAY BE COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO AN OPEN-ENDED
INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE PROCESSING PROGRAM.

2. RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE
THE INITIAL FORMAL APPROACH TO THE HKG POINTING OUT WE
HAD RECEIVED FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM UNHCR. IN THIS

APPROACH I WOULD AGAIN EXPLAIN THE PROGRAM AND THE REASONS WHY IT IS NECESSARY TO ISSUE CONDITIONAL ENTRY VISAS IN HONG KONG, EMPHASIZING THAT WE NEED THEIR COOPERATION IN ORDER FOR THE UNITED STATES TO PLAY ITS PART IN THIS INTERNATIONAL EFFORT. AT THE SAME TIME I WOULD OUTLINE IN GENERAL TERMS WHAT UNHCR IS PREPARED TO DO AND, IF UNHCR AGREES, SAY THAT UNHCR IS PLANNING TO SEND A HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE TO HONG KONG TO EXPLAIN FIRST-HAND HOW THE PROGRAM HERE WOULD FIT INTO ITS EFFORT IN THE WHOLE AREA.

3. IF UNHCR AGREES TO THIS TWO-STEP APPROACH, AND DEPENDING UPON HKG REACTION TO MY DISCUSSIONS, RECOMMEND UNHCR'S HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE COME HERE AND EMPHASIZE THAT THE PROGRAM IN HONG KONG WOULD BE A SMALL, CONTROL-LABLE, AND SEPARATE PART(WITH PROCESSING CONFINED TO US-BOUND BOAT CASES) OF A LARGER PROGRAM AND THAT HE BE PREPARED TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT UNHCR WOULD NOT USE HONG KONG'S AGREEMENT AS A SELLING POINT TO GAIN THE AGREEMENT OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA. OF COURSE, HKG'S FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO BOTH UNHCR AND OUR APPROACHES WOULD DEPEND UPON WHETHER UNHCR HAD ALREADY OBTAINED AGREEMENT ON "NATIONS OF FIRST ASYLUM" OR COULD OBTAIN IT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA.
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